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First Presbyterian Church



Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester & Beyond

The Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Virtual & In-Person Worship ★ Christmas Eve ★ December 24, 2021

"Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" is the Christmas Eve service held in King's College Chapel at the University of Cambridge, located in the United Kingdom. The Festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. The service includes carols and readings from the Bible. The opening carol is always 'Once in Royal David's City', and there is always a new, specially commissioned carol. It is distinct from Carols from King's, which is a carol service pre-recorded for BBC television, also broadcast on Christmas Eve.

Sanctuary Worshippers Thank you for joining us on this Christmas Eve night. Regardless of vaccination status, all must be masked. Worship leadership and song leaders may remove their masks when speaking or singing. Persons with COVID-19 symptoms or who have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms in the past two weeks are asked to remain home and attend worship virtually.

Gathering

PRELUDE MUSIC

"Carol—Prelude on 'Greensleeves'"	Pat Byers, pipe organ	Searle Wright
"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"	Julia Watts, violin	French Carol
"In the Bleak Midwinter"	Dr. Morgan Brower, soprano	Eric Thiman
"Star of Bethlehem"		Miklos Rozsa
"The Birthday of a King"	Jen and Katie Volkmann, vocals	W.H. Neidlinger
"Noel"		Louis Daquin
"Gesù, Bambino"		Pietro A. Yon

CALL TO WORSHIP (leader)

Sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD! Bless his name! Share the news of his saving work every single day! **Psalm 96:1-2**

PROCESSIONAL CAROL, #140 "Once in Royal David's City" **IRBY**

Caroline Aikens, v. 1 solo | **Congregation, v. 2**

1) Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2) He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

A BIDDING PRAYER (leader)

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no person can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BIDDING CAROL, HYMN #133, vv. 1-2 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

1) O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
born the King of angels!

2) True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

The Nine Lessons

FIRST LESSON "God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head." **Genesis 3:8-15**

CAROL #82, v. 1 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

SECOND LESSON "God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed." **Genesis 22:15-18**

CAROL #88, v. 1 & 6 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL

1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6) O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

THIRD LESSON "Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah." **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

CAROL #128 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

1) Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

2) Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!

FOURTH LESSON “The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.” **Isaiah 11:1-9**

CAROL #108, v. 1 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

FIFTH LESSON “The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.” **Micah 5:2-4**

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP “Were You There on That Christmas Night”

Natalie Sleeth

Jen and Katie Volkmann, vocals

SIXTH LESSON “The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.” **Luke 1:26-38**

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP “Angels' Carol”

John Rutter

Dr. Morgan Brower, soprano

SEVENTH LESSON “Luke tells the birth of Jesus.” **Luke 2:1-7**

CAROL #118, vv.1 & 6 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night”

CHRISTMAS

1) While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around, and glory shone around

6) “All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin and never cease, begin and never cease!”

EIGHTH LESSON “The shepherds go to the manger.” **Luke 2:8-16**

CAROL #119, v. 1 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

NINTH LESSON “John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.” **John 1:1-14**

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP “Joseph's Lullaby”
Dr. Morgan Brower, soprano

Millard, Brown, and Bannister

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.

OFFERING

Tonight's Christmas Eve offering provides a special opportunity to help those in need at the Laurel Center. Tonight's offering will go directly to help provide emergency shelter and support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their dependent children in the city of Winchester and the counties of Frederick and Clarke. The Laurel Center's philosophy is empowerment through support and education. They provide clients with knowledge, methods, and tools to make healthy choices, cope with the present situation and to prevent, when possible, violence in the future. They live their mission, vision and values 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.



ORGAN OFFERTORY “In dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach

PRAYER AND BLESSING (leader)

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may, with sure confidence, behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

After the Prayer and Blessing, the sanctuary lights will be extinguished. The pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle. The ushers will light their candles from the pastor's candle and so light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The congregation will sing "Silent Night" as the light from the Christ candle spreads through all the sanctuary.



All are invited to lift their candles high on the singing of v. 4.

Aikens Family, v. 1 solo | Congregation, vv. 2-4

1) Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2) Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

3) Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4) Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Please extinguish your candle.

ORGAN POSTLUDE "In dulci jubilo"

J.S. Bach

Merry Christmas

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Continue your Christmas with First Presbyterian Church, and join us virtually or in-person on Sunday, December 26 at 10 am, and every Sunday after Christmas—
We invite you to make First Presbyterian Church your spiritual home.

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fpcwinc.org

Facebook Page

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Pastors: The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr. and The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

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